

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, November 25, 2005

FIREARM RECOVERIES CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN DC

With more than a month still to go in 2005, the MPDC has already recovered more firearms this year than in all of 2004, with officers seizing nearly two dozen weapons over the weekend of November 19-20 alone. As of November 23, a total of 2,133 firearms had been recovered from District streets and homes. The compares with 2,065 firearms recovered in all of 2004. Firearm recoveries have increased steadily in recent years, from 1,931 in 2002 and 1,982 in 2003. The 2005 total includes 161 firearms turned in by residents during community-sponsored gun buy-back programs held in February. Even excluding the weapons recovered during the community buy-backs, the MPDC will still likely end the year having recovered a substantially higher number of illegal firearms. Recent firearm recoveries have included an SKS assault-style weapon seized during the execution of a search warrant in the 1500 block of 6th Street, NW. Since September 1976, DC law has prohibited the ownership and possession of handguns, short-barrelled rifles, sawed-off shotguns and machine guns. Long guns and pistols validly registered to the current owner prior to September 24, 1976, remain legal in DC.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=221000>> MPDC News Room
- ① Get weekly updates on firearm recoveries, as well as other crime statistics, at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp
- ① For additional information on DC's gun laws and gun safety, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547431,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp

“PARTNERS ON PATROLS” YIELDS RESULTS DURING FIRST TWO MONTHS

Frustrated by criminals who were using the border between DC and Prince George's County to try and elude law enforcement, leaders of the two jurisdictions – including Mayor Williams and County Executive Jack Johnson – announced plans for a new cross-border initiative. The concept was to have MPDC and Prince George's County police officers patrol jointly in hot spots along the common border, focusing on crimes such as drug trafficking, robbery, assaults and auto theft. While start-up of the initiative was delayed for several months over administrative issues involving federal partners, the “Partners on Patrol” program was officially launched in September of this year, with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. During the first two months of operation, the initiative has already yielded some positive results. For example, Partners on Patrol officers have made more than 300 arrests, including 131 for felonies, 170 for misdemeanors and 12 for traffic offenses. They have also recovered 24 weapons. Officials have also reported that crime along the DC-Prince George's County border seems to have been reduced in recent months. Both Chief Ramsey and Prince George's County Police Chief Melvin High commended the officers who are making “Partners on Patrol” an early success.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=222000>> MPDC News Room

DC SUPPORTS 2005 "TOYS FOR TOTS" CAMPAIGN

Again this year, DC's public safety community is strongly supporting the "Toys for Tots" campaign, which provides holiday cheer for families in need. Operated by the US Marine Corps Reserves and supported by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, the program collects new, unwrapped toys each year and distributes them as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community. Both the MPDC and the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department are supporting the program in the District. This past week, Chief Ramsey joined Toys for Tots officials and supporters in kicking off this year's campaign at the famous Norwegian Electric Train in Union Station. All 33 firehouses in the District are serving as collection points for the 2005 Toys for Tots campaign. In addition, the MPDC is helping to collect toys, identify needy families and assist in the distribution of toys. This year's campaign began on November 18 and will conclude on December 16. Please note that the Campaign will not accept toys which may be used as, or considered to be, weapons (i.e., no toy guns or knives of any kind). Most children who receive toys from Toys for Tots range from toddlers to 17 year olds. The US Marine Corps Reserve asks donors to please consider items such as music CDs, watches and cosmetic kits, in addition to toys geared to younger children.

- ① Learn more about Toys for Tots and how you can get involved by going to:
<http://www.toysfortots.org/home/>
- ① The addresses of all DC Fire Companies and EMS locations can be found on:
<http://fems.dc.gov/fems/cwp/view,a,3,q,526088,femsNav,131511|.asp>

POLICE WARN ABOUT PICKPOCKETS ON THE METRO DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

'Tis the season for pickpocketing, and both Metro and the MPDC want riders to be on guard against thieves. According to police, this is the time of year when pickpocket crimes tend to increase, not only in the transit system but across the city as people tend to focus on their holiday shopping. "Pickpocketing is a crime of opportunity," says Cedric Mitchell, a Metro Transit Police detective and nationally recognized expert in pickpocket and identity theft crimes. "This is the time of year that people tend to be more vulnerable to pickpockets and other types of robberies, mostly because they tend to carry more cash and credit cards." There are several steps that DC residents – and especially those who use Metro – can take to make themselves less vulnerable to the crime of pickpocketing. For instance, women should keep handbags close to the body. Men should avoid carrying their wallets in a rear pants pocket, and instead carry them inside a coat pocket. Everyone should consider carrying only the amount of cash and credit you need on that trip. And if you are the victim of a pickpocket, contact the police and your financial institutions immediately.

- ① For more information on reducing pickpocketing in the Metro system, go to:
http://www.wmata.com/about/met_news/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=1024
- ① Metro also recently reported the robbery of an iPod from a Red Line rider and the arrest of a teenage suspect. Details at:
http://www.wmata.com/about/met_news/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=1026
- ① For a detailed list of holiday safety suggestions from the MPDC, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547767,mpdcNav_GID,1550,mpdcNav,|.asp

NEWS & NOTES

Talk with Chief Ramsey. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues with the public during two media appearances in the upcoming week. On Wednesday, November 30, from 5-6 pm, the Chief appears on WOL Radio's "Live at Five" program, hosted by Latoya Foster. On Thursday, December 1, from 10-11 am, the Chief has his regular monthly "Ask the Chief" appearance on WTOP radio.

CCTV System Comments. The MPDC is seeking public comment on recently announced changes to its Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system. In a Public Notice published in the DC Register of November 18, the MPDC released a revised list that now includes 19 permanent CCTV camera locations. The public may submit written comments to the Chief of Police, Metropolitan Police Department, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 5080, Washington, DC, 20001, or via e-mail at mail.chief-of-police@dc.gov.

MPDC Annual Awards Ceremony. Save the date: the MPDC's Annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, December 14, 2005, at 7 pm, in DAR Constitution Hall in Northwest DC. This annual event recognizes the Department's outstanding sworn and civilian members, as well as partners in the community and other agencies. Additional information will be posted soon on the MPDC website.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 11/25/05
◆ 2005: 174	
◆ 2004: 180	
◆ % Change: -3.3%	
◆ Closure Rate: 54.6% (95 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 11/19/05
◆ Total: 889	
◆ Drugs: 161	
◆ Weapons: 33	
◆ Robbery: 13	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 20	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 11/19/05
◆ Arrests: 56	
◆ Curfew Violations: 45	
◆ Truants: 81	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 11/23/05
◆ November: 144	
◆ 2005 Total: 2,133	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 11/25/05
◆ 2005: 42	
◆ 2004: 42	
◆ % Change: Unch.	